GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4025
ANSWERED ON:27.03.2017
Inclusion of Heritage Sites in UNESCO List
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Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to identify the heritage sites across the country which are likely to be included in the UNESCO World Heritage List;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the monuments/sites identified for the purpose, State/UT-wise;

(c) the details of the sites which have already been granted heritage status by UNESCO, State/UT-wise;

(d) the criteria adopted for inclusion of heritage sites in the UNESCO World Heritage list; and

(e) whether various State Governments have requested the Union Government to identify the famous historical sites as National Heritage sites and recommend to UNESCO for declaring them as 'World Heritage Sites' and if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto, State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE, CULTURE AND TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) & (b) No, Madam. There is no such survey conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India to identify the heritage sites across the country to be included in the UNESCO World Heritage list. However, a series of regional workshops was organized for identifying monuments and sites to be put up on UNESCO's Tentative List. Details of the sites on Tentative List are in Annexure-A.

(c) The list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India is given in Annexure-B.

(d) The criteria adopted for inclusion of sites in the UNESCO World Heritage list is given in Annexure-C.

(e) Yes, Madam. The following sites/cities − Group of Monuments at Mandu, Madhya Pradesh; Historic City of Ahmadabad; River Island of Majuli in midstream of Brahmaputra River in Assam; The Victorian & Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai; and Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple were recently requested by respective State Governments to be included in the UNESCO World Heritage list. Out of these 'Historic City of Ahmadabad' has been submitted to World Heritage Centre in January, 2016 and 'Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple' and 'The Victorian & Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai' were submitted to the World Heritage Centre in January, 2017.

ANNEXURE-A

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. â€ 4025 FOR 27.3.2017.

INDIAN SITES IN THE TENTATIVE LIST OF UNESCO

India at present has 44 sites in the Tentative List of UNESCO.

1. Ancient Buddhist Site, Sarnath, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh (03/07/1998)
2. Apatani Cultural Landscape (15/04/2014)
3. Archaeological remains of a Harappa Port-Town, Lothal (15/04/2014)
4. BahÃ¡'Ã House of Worship at New Delhi (15/04/2014)
5. Bhitarkanika Conservation Area (26/05/2009)
6. Cellular Jail, Andaman Islands (15/04/2014)
7. Chettinad, Village Clusters of the Tamil Merchants (15/04/2014)
8. Chilika Lake (15/04/2014)
9. Cold Desert Cultural Landscape of India (15/04/2015)
10. Delhi - A Heritage City (22/05/2012)
11. Desert National Park (26/05/2009)
12. Dholavira: A Harappan City (15/04/2014)
13. Ekamra Kshetra − The Temple City, Bhubaneswar (15/04/2014)
14. Evolution of Temple Architecture − Aihole-Badami- Pattadakal (09/02/2015)
15. Group of Monuments at Mandu, Madhya Pradesh (03/07/1998)
16. Historic city of Ahmadabad (31/03/2011)

17. Iconic Saree Weaving Clusters of India (15/04/2014)
18. Jaipur city, Rajasthan India (15/04/2015)
19. Keibul Lamjao Conservation Area (11/03/2016)
20. Mattanchery Palace, Ernakulam, Kerala (03/07/1998)
21. Moidams − the Mound-Burial system of the Ahom Dynasty (15/04/2014)
22. Monuments and Forts of the Deccan Sultanate (15/04/2014)
23. Monuments of Srirangapatna Island Town (15/04/2014)
24. Mountain Railways of India (Extension) (15/04/2014)
25. Mughal Gardens in Kashmir (13/12/2010)
26. Namdapha National Park (15/03/2006)
27. Narcondam Island (15/04/2014)
28. Neora Valley National Park (26/05/2009)
29. Padmanabhapuram Palace (15/04/2014)
30. River Island of Majuli in midstream of Brahmaputra River in Assam (02/03/2004)
31. Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala (15/04/2014)
32. Santiniketan (20/01/2010)
33. Silk Road Sites in India (20/01/2010)
34. Sites along the Uttarapath, Badshahi Sadak, Sadak-e-Azam, Grand Trunk Road (15/04/2015)
35. Sites of Saytagrah, India's non-violent freedom movement (15/04/2014)
36. Sri Harimandir Sahib, Amritsar, Punjab (05/01/2004)
37. Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam (15/04/2014)
38. Temples at Bishnupur, West Bengal (03/07/1998)
39. The Glorious Kakatiya Temples and Gateways (15/04/2014)
40. The Neolithic Settlement of Burzahom (15/04/2014)
41. The Qutb Shahi Monuments of Hyderabad Golconda Fort, Qutb Shahi Tombs, Charminar (10/09/2010)
42. The Victorian & Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai (22/05/2012)
43. Thembang Fortified Village (15/04/2014)
44. Wild Ass Sanctuary, Little Rann of Kutch (15/03/2006)

ANNEXURE-B

ANNEXURE REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.â€ 4025 FOR 27.3.2017

WORLD HERITAGE SITES

Cultural Sites

Under Protection of Archaeological Survey of India

S.No Name of Site State
1. Ajanta Caves (1983) Maharashtra
2. Ellora Caves (1983) Maharashtra
3. Agra Fort (1983) Uttar Pradesh
4. Taj Mahal (1983) Uttar Pradesh
5. Sun Temple, Konarak (1984) Odisha
6. Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram (1984) Tamil Nadu
7. Churches and Convents of Goa (1986) Goa
8. Group of Temples, Khajuraho (1986) Madhya Pradesh
9. Group of Monuments at Hampi (1986) Karnataka
10. Group of Monuments, FatehpurSikri (1986) Uttar Pradesh
11. Group of Temples, Pattadakal (1987) Karnataka
12. Elephanta Caves (1987) Maharashtra
13. Great Living Chola temples at Thanjavur, Gangaikondacholapuram and Darasuram (1987 & 2004)
Tamil Nadu
14. Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi (1989) Madhya Pradesh
15. Humayun's Tomb, Delhi (1993) Delhi
16. Qutb Minar Complex, Delhi (1993) Delhi
17. Prehistoric Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka (2003) Madhya Pradesh
18. Champaner-Pavagarh Archaeological Park (2004) Gujarat
19. Red Fort Complex, Delhi (2007) Delhi
20. Hill Forts of Rajasthan (Chittaurgarh, Kumbhalgarh, Jaisalmer and Ranthambhore, Amber and
Gagron Forts) (2013)
(Amber and Gagron Forts are under protection of Rajasthan State Archaeology and Museums)
Rajasthan
21. Rani ki Vav (2014) Gujarat
22. Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara (Nalanda University) at Nalanda (2016) Bihar

Under Protection of Ministry of Railways

23. Mountain Railway of India (Darjeeling,1999), Nilgiri (2005), Kalka-Shimla(2008) West
Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh

24. Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus) (2004) Maharashtra

Under Protection of Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee

25. Mahabodhi Temple, Bodhgaya (2002) Bihar

Under Protection of Rajasthan State Archaeology and Museums Department

26. Jantar Mantar, Jaipur (2010) Rajasthan

Under protection of Chandigarh Administration

27. The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement (2016) Chandigarh

NATURAL SITES

Under Protection of Ministry of Environment & Forest and Climate Change

28. Kaziranga National Park (1985) Assam
29. Manas Wild Life Sanctuary (1985) Assam
30. Keoladeo National Park (1985) Rajasthan
31. Sunderban National Park (1987) West Bengal
32. Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks (1988, 2005) Uttarakhand
33. Western Ghats (2012) Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra,Tamil Nadu
34. Great Himalayan National Park (2014) Himachal Pradesh

MIXED SITES

Under protection of Ministry of Environment & Forest and Climate Change

35. Khanchendzonga National Park (2016) Sikkim

Annexure-C

ANNEXURE REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.â€ 4025 FOR 27.3.2017
Criteria for consideration :

i. to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
ii. to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;
iii. to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
iv. to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;
v. to be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
vi. to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria);
vii. to contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
viii. to be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth''s history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;
ix. to be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;
x. to contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.